

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 117

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12—Relative to the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 2, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 12, Alarcon. Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California.

This measure would establish the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California. The Joint Committee would have among its duties the development of a “Master Plan to End Poverty in California,” and to report to the Legislature on the state of poverty in California. The measure would provide for the Joint Committee’s continued existence until December 31, 2005.

WHEREAS, Poverty is detrimental to the health, welfare, and safety of Californians; and

WHEREAS, Poverty affects all communities, in particular women, children, seniors, disabled, working families, immigrants, and the homeless; and

WHEREAS, Poverty affects the health and economic well-being of communities; and

WHEREAS, Safety net programs, either private or public, are continually threatened by the scarcity of resources, as well as by the increasing cost of living throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, The 2000 Census reports that 14 percent of Californians live at or below the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, The current 2002 federal poverty level is described as a family unit of one with an income of eight thousand eight hundred sixty dollars (\$8,860), a family unit of two with an income of eleven thousand nine hundred forty dollars (\$11,940), a family unit of three with an income of fifteen thousand twenty dollars (\$15,020), and a family unit of four with an income of eighteen thousand one hundred dollars (\$18,100); and

WHEREAS, The current formula to determine the federal poverty level underestimates the actual cost of living in poverty because that formula measures only food consumption and not other basic needs, such as housing, health care, transportation, utilities, and child care; and

WHEREAS, California has the second highest poverty rate when measuring people living at 125 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, California is losing billions of dollars in revenue by not closing the income gap between the haves and have-nots; and

WHEREAS, Reducing poverty, and reducing the income gap, will greatly benefit the economic and social infrastructure of California; and

WHEREAS, Poverty is not inevitable in California if wise economic and social programs are established; and

WHEREAS, Californians challenged the state to end poverty in the 1930's through the EPIC (Ending Poverty In California) movement; and

WHEREAS, The alarming statistics on income levels demonstrate that poverty has not been eradicated in this state, and there is a moral imperative to strive to accomplish that goal; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California, composed of 7 Members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and 7 Members of the Assembly, to be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, is hereby established; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee shall be under the direction of a Senate chair and an Assembly chair, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly, respectively; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee develop a “Master Plan to End Poverty in California” to provide solutions to ending poverty; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee report to the Legislature on the state of poverty in California based upon demographic data from the most recent federal census within four years of the release of that demographic data; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee and its members shall have and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly as they are adopted and amended from time to time, which provisions are incorporated herein and made applicable to this committee and its members; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate Committee on Rules may make money available from the Senate Operating Fund, as it deems necessary, to share expenses of the Joint Committee and its members. Any expenditure of money shall be made in compliance with policies set forth by the Senate Committee on Rules and shall be subject to the approval of the Senate Committee on Rules; and be it further

Resolved, That the Assembly Committee on Rules may make money available from the Assembly Operating Fund, as it deems necessary, to



share expenses of the Joint Committee and its members. Any expenditure of money shall be made in compliance with policies set forth by the Assembly Committee on Rules and shall be subject to the approval of the Assembly Committee on Rules; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Committee continue in existence until December 31, 2005.

